

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 SS-15 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 L-02 H-02

EA-06 /049 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7514

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, JM

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. ALL SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS ARE TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH COMMONWEALTH MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH OPENS TOMORROW IN KINGSTON AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AT LEAST MAY 6 TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTED ORAL DEMARCHE.

2. MANLEY GOVERNMENT VIEWS UNFOLDING TRAGEDY IN VIETNAM AS INEVITABLE RESULT OF A US POLICY WHICH IT NEVER APPROVED. EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO BE PESSIMISTIC BUT IT BELIEVES INITIAL DEMARCHE COMING FROM USG WOULD HAVE LESS CHANCE OF SUCCESS THAN ONE COMING FROM THIRD PARTY NOT SO INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN EVENTS.

3. LEAVING GOJ'S POLITICAL ATTITUDE ASIDE, JAMAICA'S 25 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, LOCAL POPULATION PRESSURES, AND SHORTAGE PUBLIC HOUSING DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR GOJ ACCEPTANCE REFUGEES. SLIGHT POSSIBLITY DOES EXIST, HOWEVER, THAT IF APPROACH WAS MADE THROUGH UNHCR, GOJ MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT TOKEN NUMBER OF REFUGEES
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ON HUMANITARIAN BASIS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY WERE

HIGHLY SKILLED AND ENGLISH SPEAKING (E.G. MEDICAL PERSONNEL). IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF AVAILABILITY UNHCR OR USG FUNDING TO ASSIST GOJ IN LOCAL RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES SHOULD IT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THEM?

4. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE EMBASSY INTENDS TO DEFER APPROACH TO GOJ UNTIL AFTER INITIAL CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE BY ONE OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED BY DEPARTMENT WHICH AGENCY WILL CONTACT GOJ AND WHEN IT PLANS TO DO SO.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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